

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
10/25/15 – 11/7/15**

DISTRICT 1

CO Denny Gast responded to a RAP complaint of a bear caught in a trapper's coyote trap in Baraga County. After the original complaint, a passerby called about the bear in a trap. By the time CO Gast arrived on location someone had driven by and shot the bear. The investigation into the illegal shooting of the bear is ongoing.

CO Doug Hermanson received an anonymous complaint that three turkeys had been illegally taken, photographed and shared through a social media page. CO Hermanson investigated the complaint and identified the suspect. Upon interviewing the suspect CO Hermanson received a full confession and evidence was seized. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethen Mapes investigated a complaint of an illegal litter dump site on state land. The litter pile was quite large. As CO Mapes was looking at the litter, a truck pulled up and the driver stated, "I'm in trouble, aren't I?" The subject stated he intended to pick up the trash in the future, but was just storing the garbage in the woods until he had time to go to the dump. Law enforcement action was taken.

As CO Ethen Mapes was investigating the above-mentioned litter complaint, an ORV came down the trail to his location. The operator of the ORV did not have a helmet and was missing the required ORV registration decals. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller attended a career day at the L'Anse High School, which was also attended by 5 other area high schools with students from grades 9-12. CO Miller spoke to over 150 students who were interested in the field of conservation law enforcement.

CO Mark Leadman was working bow hunting activity in Marquette County when he discovered an illegal ORV trail. He followed the trail to a hunting site and found the site had two bow stands that had been left out for years with no names on them. Contact was made with a hunter at the site. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and CO Shannon Kritz handled a trapping trespass complaint. A subject was walking his dog near his camp when the dog was caught in a leg hold trap. The COs met with the landowner who advised of a possible suspect who lived nearby. The suspect was interviewed with enforcement action being taken for the trespass issue and untagged traps.

CO Jarrod Ferguson responded to the complaint of a dog that was killed in an illegal conibear trap set. CO Ferguson developed a suspect and interviewed the individual. The suspect admitted to setting the trap in an attempt to catch a skunk that had been in his yard. Enforcement action was taken for the illegal trap.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a small game hunter in Dickinson County who was in violation of the hunter orange requirements. While conducting a LEIN check on the subject, CO Bacon also discovered the subject was a convicted felon and unable to possess a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and PCO Calvin Smith located an archery hunter hunting over an illegal deer bait. The hunter was also using screw-in tree steps on state land and had no name and address attached to his tree stand. All violations observed were addressed in an appropriate manner.

DISTRICT 2

Sgt. Mike Hammill received a late night call at his residence reporting a lost hunter. Sgt. Hammill responded and assisted the Alger County Sheriff's Department along with Michigan State Police troopers and many volunteers to search for the missing hunter. The search continued throughout the night and into the next day. The individual was found at his residence unharmed. Apparently the hunter had gotten turned around and decided to spend the night in the woods until daylight. The hunter was able to find his vehicle the next morning and return home safely.

CO Brett Gustafson checked ten waterfowl hunters on St. Martin's Bay. The hunters who were equipped to handle the weather had very good success. Limits of old squaw were common.

CO John Wenzel assisted the Delta County Sheriff's office on a possible bomb threat at a local school. Officers performed a sweep of the common areas and stood by as the school was on lockdown. The Michigan State Police K-9 unit arrived and cleared the school. No devices were found.

COs John Wenzel and Mike Evink responded to a report of a person who was stuck on a two-track road in the Hiawatha National Forest. The couple had followed their GPS down a muddy road only to become stuck and lost. The COs found the vehicle and called a wrecker.

CO John Wenzel was on a recent "Ask the DNR" TV program. Callers are able to phone in questions to a panel of DNR employees and obtain answers on live TV.

COs John Wenzel and Mike Evink contacted a trio that were cutting boughs on federal lands without a proper permit. Information was taken and turned over to the Forest Service Law Enforcement.

CO Kevin Postma was traveling eastbound on M-28 near M-123 around midnight when he passed a vehicle that failed to dim its head lights. A traffic stop was conducted and contact was made with the driver. CO Postma seized a small amount of marijuana as well as small amount of hash oil that was in an e-cigarette. Charges are pending.

CO Kevin Postma stopped an ORV for traveling against the flow of traffic. It was determined that the driver was operating on a suspended license. When asked if he knew it was illegal to operate an ORV on a suspended driver's license, the driver advised "I know, I know". He then went on to explain that he was just planning on riding the trails, but the problem was, there was some recent road construction that required him to navigate on the roadway, and apparently in the wrong direction. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma assisted with a teaching a snowmobile safety class to numerous kids and adults.

CO Kevin Postma and DNR Biologist Kristi Sitar assisted two trappers with releasing a 125 pound black bear from a beaver trap. The bear was walking the edge of a marsh when it was accidentally caught by the trap. The release was exciting and successful.

COs Pat Hartsig and Calvin Smith received a complaint from a local land owner that found an ORV on their property. It was later discovered the ORV was stolen from a local camp the night before and was likely "left" at the scene. The information was turned over to the local sheriff's department who was already investigating the stolen property.

COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith patrolled North Alger County and encountered a group of hunters. One of the subjects was about to shoot a grouse but was not wearing any required hunters orange. An education was given on the matter.

While checking the Forest Lake Basin for waterfowl hunters, CO Calvin Smith contacted a group returning from their hunt with a loaded shotgun in the vessel. CO Smith checked the hunters' licenses and discovered that one individual had also failed to purchase a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon were patrolling for the upcoming rifle season and located a group of eager hunters setting up camp. Several state land violations were noticed along with multiple ORV violations. Enforcement action was taken.

While working waterfowl hunters on Little Bay de Noc, CO Pat Hartsig watched a group of five duck hunters actively calling ducks for 20 minutes past the legal shooting hours. CO Hartsig contacted the group as they walked back to their trucks. The group of high school boys had unplugged guns, no waterfowl stamps and were hunting after hours.

While driving back to his residence, CO Pat Hartsig was passed by a vehicle exceeding the speed limit by more than 20 MPH. When the driver was stopped, he stated he didn't think conservation officers could pull people over. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Albert and CO Adam LeClerc checked a bow hunter coming out of the woods who had stated he shot a four point buck the day before. The hunter claimed to have no knowledge of the antler point restriction that has been in place for the last three years in 12 counties in the northwestern part of the state. The sub-legal deer was seized along with the hunter's tag.

CO Carl Vanderwall is investigating a complaint of a subject who is cutting down a number of large oak trees along the roadway and removing the saw logs.

While returning home from a shining patrol, CO Andrea Erratt assisted a Boyne City police officer who was responding to a domestic violence complaint. The officers were able to stop the suspect vehicle as he was attempting to leave the scene. The suspect was intoxicated and uncooperative with the officers. The officers were able to arrest the subject for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and domestic violence charges are pending.

CO Duane Budreau and CO Ethan Mapes investigated a complaint of a subject who had taken a deer without having a license. Through their investigation, the officers were able to track down the suspect and the deer. The suspect did have license, but had failed to properly tag the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff and CO Chris Lynch received a shots fired complaint and when investigated, located a fresh gut pile. Upon approaching a suspect's residence, they observed a buck hanging in the garage. SD cards from the suspect's trail camera showed him standing next to the dead buck in the field. A confession was obtained and the suspect is being charged with the illegal killing of a deer/taken during the closed season with a firearm and without a license. The rifle was also seized. CO Matt Theunick and CO Chad Baldwin also assisted in the investigation.

CO Eric Bottorff and CO Chris Lynch worked an area where shining and shooting complaints were received. Officers observed a vehicle shining and made a traffic stop. The individuals were cited for shining in November. No weapons were in the vehicle.

CO Eric Bottorff and CO Chris Lynch checked a couple of hunters coming out of the woods at dusk. One did not have his deer tag in possession, one had an excessive amount of bait at his hunting location, neither immediately notified they had CPLs and had loaded pistols in the vehicle and neither had names/addresses on their tree stands. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew stopped a vehicle for a civil infraction violation. Upon contact, it was determined that the operator was in possession of a handgun. The CO was advised by the subject that he was a CPL holder, however had left his credentials at his residence. Upon investigation, the CO was unable to verify the subject's claim and therefore enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Torsky and CO Chris Lynch took a trapping complaint in the Gaylord Schools Natural Area. The COs discovered untagged traps and trespass activities. A suspect was later identified and cited for the untagged traps.

COs Bill Webster and James Zellinger investigated a photograph from a social media website which did not have a kill tag on it and the hunter had not purchased a hunting license yet this year. When the officers made contact with the hunter in the photograph, his father initially took credit for shooting the deer then admitted his son had shot it. When he found out that his son did not have a license, the father put his license on the deer so they could get it processed. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office for taking a deer without a license and lending a kill tag to another.

COs Bill Webster and James Zellinger investigated a complaint of feeding deer behind a residence. While talking with the homeowners, they admitted to feeding deer to draw them in so they would be safe and would not be shot. They went on to say they did not want hunters to shoot them but said they shoot two each year for meat. A citation was issued for feeding deer in a prohibited county.

CO Jon Sklba was checking a tree stand which had been left out on state land for years and contacted a hunter in the stand. When the hunter was contacted, he was found not to have a hunting license and was cited for the violation.

CO Jon Sklba was patrolling state land when he located an unregistered camp. While talking with one individual at the camp, he saw a large amount of marijuana unsecured in one of the tents. CO Sklba waited for the owner of the tent to come back and cited him for violations of the medical marijuana law.

DISTRICT 4

CO Mike Wells was on patrol when he received a request for assistance regarding an MSP trooper on a traffic stop. During the traffic stop, the trooper discovered an untagged deer in the back of the vehicle. CO Wells responded to the scene and upon his arrival, discovered that the subject mysteriously found his kill tags in his vehicle after he informed the troopers he had left them at home. A DNR priors check of the subject revealed that he has had two previous convictions for using another's deer tags. Citation was issued for the untagged deer.

CO Mike Wells was on his day off when he received a telephone call from a Newaygo County hunter. The hunter was on his property in his deer stand when he observed a male subject carrying a rifle, not displaying hunter orange, and obviously trespassing. CO Wells immediately responded and learned that another neighbor made contact with the unknown subject just minutes before he was observed by the complainant. This neighbor positively identified the subject and told him to get off of his property. Upon receiving a clothing description and name of the suspect, CO Wells canvassed the area and a short time later located the subject walking down the roadway toward his residence. The suspect was not in possession of a firearm at the

time CO Wells located him. Upon an interview of the suspect, he gave admission to the trespass stating that he was scouting for a big ten point in the area. The subject denied having possession of a rifle. When he was advised that another hunter had observed him from his tree stand, the suspect finally admitted he was in possession of a .22 magnum rifle with the intention of shooting squirrels. A license check revealed the subject had not purchased any 2015 hunting licenses. The rifle was located and seized. Citation was issued for the violations of small game hunting without a license and for the violation of hunter orange requirements.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol when he received information of an over limit of bait on USFS Land. CO Wells responded to the area and located the hunting site. Inspection revealed approximately 100 lbs. of bait and no name/address on the stand. CO Wells checked the hunting location for the next several days and finally located the hunter in the stand. CO Wells approached the hunter and asked him if he knew why he was being contacted. The hunter looked directly over at his large bait pile, looked back to CO Wells and responded "yes". A citation was issued for the bait violation.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol in southern Lake County when he made inspection of a hunter's vehicle parked on public land. Two bow cases were observed in the vehicle with a smaller pistol case observed on the driver side floor area. CO Wells sat surveillance on the vehicle and a short time later made contact with two hunters returning to the vehicle, one of which was a juvenile. Interview of the adult revealed a loaded 40 caliber pistol concealed in his pocket. CO Wells removed the pistol and secured it. The adult advised he has had several pictures of bear on his trail camera and that he had borrowed the handgun from his friend due to the presence of the bear. The subject confirmed he did not have a concealed pistol license. CO Wells advised the subject of the felony violation of carrying a handgun concealed, the violation of possession of a handgun owned by someone else, and possession of a firearm while archery hunting all of which the subject advised he was not aware. All evidence was collected at the scene including the seizure of the handgun. A report will be completed and submitted to prosecutor's office for review and warrant issuance.

CO Ethan Gainforth and CO Jeff Ginn were working around midnight when they observed a vehicle shining in Newaygo County. CO Gainforth conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and located four subjects inside. The suspects were found to be in possession of a .22 caliber rifle and a compound bow. The two suspects responsible for working the light and having the weapons in possession were later determined to be convicted felons as well. The evidence was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Gainforth and CO Jeff Ginn were working Newaygo County when they observed a vehicle parked along a closed trout stream. Upon further investigation, they located a male suspect fishing. He was later found to have an outstanding warrant and was in possession of marijuana. The suspect admitted to driving to the area on a suspended driver license in a vehicle without insurance and an expired registration plate. The suspect was transported and lodged at the Newaygo County jail and the vehicle was impounded.

COs Brian Lebel and Angela Greenaway received information of a subject who had shot his fourth buck the previous night. The officers made contact the following day and spoke with the subject. The large ten point from the previous evening was in his garage. The interview revealed that the subject indeed shot three other large bucks in the previous weeks. Two of the deer were tagged with other people's tags. The heads and capes were seized from other locations. In the end, all four deer were seized and the subject was charged with taking the over limit of bucks.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received an illegal deer dumping complaint where a deer carcass that appeared to be gunshot was disposed. The complainant gave CO Killingbeck a description of a suspect vehicle. While canvassing the neighborhood, CO Killingbeck spotted the suspected vehicle and stopped it with the help of the Lake County Sheriff's Department. CO Killingbeck observed deer hair in the back of the truck and questioned the driver. The occupants told the CO several different stories of why there was deer hair present, but CO Killingbeck finally got a full confession from the suspect who admittedly took the deer with a .22 rifle after dark using the headlights of his truck. Warrants are being sought for the illegal deer.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, Lake County, checked a local processor and found a buck with a tag that was notched out, but had some obvious discrepancies. Upon investigation, it was found that the kill tag belonged to a female that had a history of purchasing deer licenses late in the season. CO Killingbeck decidedly went to the residence of the hunter and was greeted by the female who said her husband had shot two deer this year. As the conversation went on, she suddenly changed her story saying that she had killed one of the deer. CO Killingbeck asked what she had shot and the female replied "a deer". CO Killingbeck then asked the female if it was a buck or doe and she replied "I'm not sure". Just then, the husband walked in from hunting and asked why the CO was there. When CO Killingbeck presented the facts that he believed that the female hunter had taken an illegal deer, her husband confessed to shooting both of the deer. He stated that he wanted to save his own tag for firearm season so he had his wife purchase a tag for the deer the following day, and then tagged it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, Lake County, observed an ORV operating on a state highway where ORVs are prohibited from riding. As CO Killingbeck caught up to the ORV, he was able to clock the driver in excess of 60 mph. The ORV was stopped and CO Killingbeck found a 15 year old juvenile operating with his mom in the passenger seat. Both admitted to knowing that it was illegal to operate on the state highway, but were in a hurry to get home. It was also discovered that the juvenile hadn't taken ORV safety. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney, Lake County, was working a shining patrol when he located a vehicle traveling slower than normal past a farm field. CO Kinney followed the vehicle and ultimately made a traffic stop after the driver ran a stop sign and threw a lit cigarette butt out the window. Upon contacting the driver, CO Kinney found an uncased .22 caliber rifle behind the seat in the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney, CO Josiah Killingbeck and Sgt. Carla Soper investigated a deer with a bullet wound that was found by a homeowner in their horse pasture. Statements were gathered from the complainant and the deer was taken for a necropsy. The COs canvassed the local area and found a neighboring property to the north of the horse pasture with an oversized, lighted bait pile. The officers were finally able to make contact with the homeowner and his son who was visiting from out of town. The son was questioned by Sgt. Soper who was able to get a full confession. The suspect stated that he shot the doe with his 410 shotgun at 6:00 a.m. because he wanted to get his dad some meat before he left town. The firearm was seized and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky received a complaint of an untagged deer in Mason County. The COs responded to the area and went to what they believed to be the suspect residence. Upon arriving, they could see an untagged doe and a female at the residence feverishly searching for her deer tag. The COs advised her that they were acting upon a complaint and gave her the information which they had received. The woman informed the officers that they were at the wrong residence and told them they would need to go a few houses south. Before leaving, they issued a citation for failing to immediately tag her deer. The COs then continued down the road and stopped by a second property. This time they were greeted by a group of hunters from downstate. The COs found a tagged doe and a tagged 5 point, both tagged by the same female. When the COs asked her if she had taken both deer, she advised that she didn't actually shoot the deer but was "hunting with my husband when he shot it for me." The COs addressed the lending and borrowing tag violation. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Kosciński and Bill Haskin were working a complaint in Wexford County of ORVs operating illegally. When they neared the complaint area, they found several ORVs running on a state highway. Several additional operators were riding towards them from federal land without helmets and riding with passengers. Numerous violations were noted and enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Kosciński followed up on a complaint from a Facebook post indicating that a subject had taken a turkey without a license this past spring. CO Kosciński was able to make contact with the suspect who confessed to taking a turkey without a license. The CO was able to obtain the turkey tail fan. The case was turned over the Manistee County prosecutor for review, ultimately resulting in a warrant for taking a turkey without a license.

CO Sam Kosciński worked Manistee County during an evening patrol and found two individuals shining after 11:00 p.m. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was checking a few illegal deer blinds on state land that he had located earlier in the year and found both were occupied by hunters. CO Converse addressed additional violations that included over bait, no name and addresses on the stands, and illegal cutting of trees and vegetation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Haskin received a complaint of a fishing line left unattended for a lengthy period of time. The set line was confirmed and CO Haskin set up surveillance. Eventually, the angler came out of his residence and reeled in a bullhead. Leaving the fish still attached to the hook, the suspect started to drive away from his residence when he was stopped by CO Patrick McManus. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Bill Haskin and Sam Koscinski received a complaint of ORVs operating on a state highway. The ORVs were also supposedly operating on federal lands closed to ORVs. Upon arrival, the COs located five ORV motorists with several violations. In addition, it was ascertained they had been operating in a closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mark Papineau investigated a tip from an informant involving a subject that had shot an 8 point buck in Gladwin County without a license. CO Papineau was able to interview several subjects and determine the piece of private property where the deer was reportedly shot. While checking the property several days later, CO Papineau was able to make contact with the suspect. During questioning, the suspect fully confessed to the illegally killing the deer. Prosecution is being sought.

COs Josh Wright and Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of a gunshot heard just before dark and responded to the area but were unable to locate any suspects or evidence. Officers returned the following day and located a blood trail that eventually led to a gut pile. By examining the entrails, officers were able to determine the deer had been killed by a bullet rather than an arrow. A suspect was soon developed and upon interview the suspect admitted to shooting a deer with an arrow and denied any wrongdoing. As the suspect began to lead officers back to look at the deer, he abruptly pulled off the road and exited his vehicle. Apparently his conscience was getting the better of him as he immediately confessed to shooting the deer with a rifle. Proper enforcement action was taken to address the deer violation and the gross over limit of bait that had also been discovered during the investigation.

While patrolling back county roads of Gladwin after dark, CO Mark Papineau observed a vehicle suspiciously parked on the shoulder of the road near a wood lot. CO Papineau parked a short distance away and approached the vehicle on foot where he was able to see several flashlights working in the woods. Adding to the suspicion, each time a vehicle drove down the road, the flashlights seemed to be turned off. CO Papineau was able to hide nearby, and after about an hour of waiting, the subjects were observed dragging a deer out of the woods. As the subjects attempted to leave, CO Papineau made contact with the unsuspecting hunters. The subjects confessed to shooting the deer during legal hours, but decided not to tag it because it was small. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

While on a night time group patrol, COs Mark Papineau and Kyle Bader made a traffic stop on a group of vehicles that were illegally shining in November. Upon contact with

occupants of the primary vehicle, CO Kyle Bader discovered a loaded .22 long rifle along with the spotlight that the occupants were using. In the second vehicle, CO Mark Papineau made contact with a group of juveniles that were related to the adults in the primary vehicle. As the investigation continued, CO Papineau was able to obtain confessions that the adults intended to shine and shoot a deer, flee the area, and the juveniles were going to retrieve the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Papineau, Kyle Bader, and Brian Olsen assisted the Ogemaw County Sheriff's Department with a fight in progress at a bar in Ogemaw County. According to Ogemaw Central Dispatch, a disagreement inside had escalated and resulted in a "bar emptying" brawl in the parking lot. There were at least 15 people involved in the altercation. CO Papineau, Bader, and Olsen quickly responded and assisted the deputies in securing the scene and dissipating the crowd.

CO Ben McAteer observed a group of ORV riders riding at a high rate of speed down a road in Crawford County. One group was observed to be riding double on a four wheeler designed for only one. The operators ended up being four juveniles with multiple violations identified. The juveniles were safely escorted into their parent's custody and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Crawford County, CO Ben McAteer located a truck blocking an ORV trail. Contact with the driver was made and he stated that he was placing bait for the firearm deer opener. The bait pile was located and found to be in excess of two gallons. The subject's tree stand was located and did not contain the proper identification markings. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Hearn and Casey Pullum received a complaint from a local trapper in Kalkaska County that a young bear was caught in his leg hold trap. The officers responded, and with the assistance from the Kalkaska County Sheriff, Animal Control and the local veterinarian, the bear was able to be released unharmed from the trap.

While patrolling state land, COs Mike Hearn and Casey Pullum located a site where a hunter had set up his hunting spot. The hunter had several violations, including excessive bait, screw-in tree steps, no name/address on their stand, unlawful cutting of trees, and unlawful use of their motor vehicle to reach the hunting area. The officers checked the site during a separate patrol and were able to make contact with the hunter during a morning hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Schluckbier and Bobbi Lively located a large litter pile while patrolling public land in Oscoda County. The litter consisted of six bags of household trash that was thrown into the woods. CO Schluckbier and CO Lively were able to obtain a mailing address from within the trash bags. After contacting the homeowners, it was discovered that the oldest son was responsible for the litter. While speaking with the teenager, he admitted to throwing the bags into the woods several weeks prior. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz received an anonymous tip of a convicted felon who was on probation who had taken a deer with a .22 rifle. Assisted by the Missaukee County probation officer, CO Liestenfeltz contacted the suspect and through an interview obtained a confession of taking a deer with a .22 rifle. A skinned carcass of a white-tailed doe along with a scoped .22 magnum rifle was found in the basement of the residence. The suspect was arrested and lodged for felon in possession of a firearm, probation violation, taking a deer with firearm closed season, take deer with a .22 rifle, hunt deer without a license and being a habitual offender.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz was investigating a Facebook posting of a Wexford County resident who had pictures and information on Facebook of harvesting a 10 point buck in Missaukee County without a license. CO Liestenfeltz contacted the suspect and through a lengthy interview obtained a confession of harvesting the buck without a license and borrowing tags. It was further found that the suspect had harvested a doe without a license earlier in the archery season. Warrants are pending from the Missaukee County prosecutor.

COs Chuck McPherson and Craig Neal responded to a hunter harassment complaint. It was discovered the suspect was shooting his shotgun to deter deer from entering the complainants hunting location. Both subjects were interviewed and enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobbi Lively and Sam Schluckbier stopped a vehicle that was driving slow in the rain with the window down. After making contact with the occupants, the COs located an uncased bow, uncased crossbow, and a firearm in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a hunter harassment complaint in Ogemaw County. A man was walking to his truck after hunting on state land. He was confronted by a property owner of some adjacent land who accused the hunter of hunting within his safety zone. The hunter's blind was well over 250 yards from the man's property line, let alone any buildings. The angry man told the hunter "if you don't leave [the state land] I'm going to shoot you." It turns out the hunter was an off-duty deputy with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office for hunter harassment.

CO Jonathan Warner assisted Michigan State Police on a domestic violence/MDOP complaint at a local motel in East Tawas. CO Warner was first to arrive and calm down the situation by separating the parties. It was determined that no physical assault occurred, but the male subject was lodged in the Iosco County jail by Michigan State Police for malicious destruction of property.

CO Jonathan Warner assisted Michigan State Police and U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement on a fatal ORV crash in Plainfield Township. Two riders were operating on a snowmobile trail closed to ORV activity when one of the riders misjudged a curve. Due to speed, the rider was unable to stop and stuck a tree.

CO Josh Russell and Sgt. Brandon Kieft were on foot patrol toward the end of hunting hours during archery season when they heard a single gunshot. When the officers returned to their vehicles and travelled about a mile west, they noticed a vehicle still parked after legal hunting hours. The COs waited for the hunter to return to his vehicle to check his deer license. When the man came walking up, he was dressed in full camouflage but didn't have a bow or crossbow in his possession. As the COs began to question the subject further, things didn't add up. Despite telling the officers he was unarmed, Sgt. Kieft eventually located a loaded handgun in his pocket. CO Russell examined the firearm and determined that it had recently been fired. The subject finally confessed to being a CPL holder and using his handgun to shoot at a deer, which was the shot heard by the officers. Two additional hunting violations were also uncovered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Pullum and Sgt. Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of a subject operating a full-size vehicle on a closed section of ORV trail. While making contact with the driver, CO Pullum smelled alcohol on his breath. Further investigation uncovered open intoxicants in the vehicle and sobriety tests were conducted. The subject was eventually arrested for operating while intoxicated and under the influence of drugs. He was lodged in the Alcona County jail.

CO Casey Pullum conducted a stop on a subject for violation of the motor vehicle code. The subject exited the vehicle and placed his hands in the air. After witnessing the strange behavior and interviewing the subject, CO Pullum conducted sobriety tests and determined the man was operating while intoxicated. He registered a blood alcohol content of .19 and was lodged in the Alcona County jail.

DISTRICT 6

CO Chad Foerster received a RAP complaint regarding the illegal tagging of a nine point buck in Bay County. During the investigation, confessions were received on the illegal tagging violations. Further investigation revealed that the subject was a taxidermist conducting work on federal migratory birds without updating his federal taxidermy permit. Enforcement action was taken on both the tagging and taxidermy violations.

While on patrol in northern Bay County, CO Will Brickel observed an ORV traveling at a high rate of speed on the roadway. The driver did not have a helmet on and after stopping the individual, it was determined that he did not have the proper ORV registration. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Ken Lowell and CO Dan Robinson made contact with a group of waterfowl hunters. At the time of the check, one of the hunters did not have the licenses required to hunt waterfowl. The hunter's information could not be retrieved at the time and the COs told him that they would issue a ticket if it turned out that he did not purchase the appropriate licenses. The hunter had only purchased his federal waterfowl stamp. A citation was issued.

While working a shining patrol, COs Mike Haas and Dan Robinson made a traffic stop of a vehicle that was driving left of center and at a high rate of speed. The driver did not have a current driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas noticed a long fence at the edge of a field. The fence was constructed to eight feet tall and almost a half mile long. It had none of the required breaks to allow the passage of wildlife. While walking the length of the fence, the COs found an antlerless deer entangled in the fence that appeared to have been there for some time. The deer was dispatched and the investigation is ongoing.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson received a complaint of a deer that had been shot with a firearm during archery season. The CO made contact with the subject at his residence and obtained a confession. The subject was also found not to have purchased a license for the 2015 season. The CO seized the antlered deer along with the rifle used to commit the violation and issued a citation.

CO Mike Haas responded to a call where a bow hunter fell from his tree stand. Local EMS and a MSP trooper had already secured the hunter by the time CO Haas arrived on scene. The hunter was carried from the woods to a nearby soy bean field where he was then transported via helicopter to the hospital. After the scene was cleared, CO Haas assisted the hunter's family in recovering the whitetail buck that the hunter had shot prior to falling.

While working waterfowl hunters in Montcalm County, CO Dan Robinson and CO Ken Lowell checked a field with multiple hunters. One hunter was without his base license and his Michigan waterfowl license. He stated that he had them but forgot to bring his wallet. The computers were down so the COs had no way to verify. CO Robinson informed the hunter that he would check the system when it came back up. He also informed the hunter that if he did not have a license he would be ticketed for the violations. The next day the system was up and running and it was determined that the hunter did not have either license. Enforcement action was taken.

While following up on a complaint of illegal ORV activity in the Stanton Game Area, CO Ken Lowell located a tree stand and bait pile just off the illegal trail. The ORV operator was driving around signs advising that the area was closed to ORV use. Several days later another check of the tree stand was made by the CO and the hunter and his ORV were found. The operator stated he was unaware that he could not operate on the game area. When the CO asked him about driving around the signs, he failed to come up with an answer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick and CO Quincy Gowenlock received information regarding a subject who had shot an eight point buck and posted it on Facebook. Later investigation determined the suspect purchased his license the following day after shooting the buck. The COs made contact with the suspect and initially he was less than truthful and made up an elaborate story. When the COs confronted him with the pictures from Facebook

and comments which were made by him and his friends he finally admitted to shooting the deer without a license and then purchasing it after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly received a RAP complaint regarding several hunters who witnessed another hunter shoot at a swan in the Shiawassee River State Game Area. The hunters advised they were hunting with their young sons and were watching a flock of eight swans drop lower and lower across the field. They were explaining how beautiful they were and that they mated for life, they also explained it was illegal to shoot swans. They then asked their sons to notice how much larger they were than geese and that they were all white and there was no way they could be mistaken for geese. At that minute is when they heard a shot and saw one of the swans drop from the group. The hunters were shocked and called RAP right away. The hunters advised they know that one of the swans was hit but it glided a long way and went out of sight. The sergeant made contact with the hunter who finally admitted he shot at a swan but was not sure if he hit it. He advised he thought it was a goose. The sergeant searched the field and found the warm dead tundra swan with eight steel BBs in it. A ticket was issued.

While patrolling at night, CO Seth Rhodea observed some suspicious activity from a vehicle traveling on a back county road. The CO made contact with the occupants who were found to have open intoxicants in the vehicle. Upon running the occupants, one subject was found to have multiple warrants and he was arrested on the warrant.

COs Seth Rhodea and Bob Hobkirk worked waterfowl hunters on a small lake in Huron County. The first party checked by the COs was observed prior to contact throwing the remains of duck carcasses in the weeds. They were found to have other violations that included rallying ducks, failing to have a license plate on their boat trailer and being in possession of lead shot. Another party was checked who did not have any PFDs on their boat and a third party was checked with the COs discovering that all people on board had loaded firearms while the boat was under power and the boat had not been registered. Numerous citations were issued to address the violations.

Upon responding to a recent complaint, COs Bob Hobkirk and Kyle Bucholtz located an untagged deer near a garage. Multiple subjects were observed standing near the deer. The deer had been dragged an extended distance without a tag being attached. The suspect stated his son had asked him to attach the tag; however, he failed to do so by the time he was approached by the COs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen stopped an ORV with three juveniles checking traps. Warnings were issued for carrying too many passengers on an ORV and untagged traps. The youths were transported home and their parents received instructions on ORV laws and trapping laws.

DISTRICT 7

CO Justin Ulberg, while patrolling some small streams in Kent County, checked an angler who had four king salmon in his possession. While speaking with the angler, CO Ulberg noticed the angler was fishing with illegal tackle consisting of a weight suspended below two hooks. Enforcement action was taken and the fish were seized.

While checking a common waterfowl hunting spot along the Grand River in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg observed a hunter from a distance. After legal hunting hours had ended, CO Ulberg noticed that the hunter was still calling and was not picking up any of the decoys. Well after legal hunting hours the subject shot a duck that had swam into his decoys. CO Ulberg continued to observe the hunter from a distance as the hunter continued to call. After several more minutes the hunter shot at a second duck swimming into his decoy spread. CO Ulberg had enough and immediately contacted the hunter. Enforcement action was taken for the violation.

CO Matt Page received a complaint from a subject advising that while hunting he witnessed a subject drive a tractor into a field and dump a very large pile of apples. After meeting with the complainant and getting a good location of the bait, CO Page drove to the area and witnessed a hunter walking down a two track. CO Page advised the subject that a complaint was called in regarding the bait and it needed to be checked. The subject showed CO Page a heaping pile of apples and when asked if he knew the bait limit was two gallons the subject stated he figured he had about 30 gallons. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Mooney and Sgt. Zach Doss worked a shining patrol in VanBuren County and observed a vehicle turned sideways in the road, shining deer in a cornfield. A stop was made and the subject stated he knew he wasn't supposed to shine in November. During the stop, a bottle of open liquor was observed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer received information that a subject had been hunting for several years and had killed numerous deer and turkeys without buying licenses. CO Brewer obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence and with the assistance of CO Chris Holmes, the warrant was served. Evidence including a 9 point mounted buck and a turkey fan was seized and other very incriminating evidence was seized. CO Brewer will be seeking a multi-count warrant for the subject.

CO Andy Bauer received information from an Indiana CO who had obtained information that a subject from Michigan had killed a deer with a rifle and tried to cover it up by sticking a crossbow bolt into the deer and also had another subject tag the deer, as the suspect did not have a valid hunting license. CO Bauer was able to locate the deer at a processor and confirmed the information. CO Bauer contacted the suspect and obtained a confession that the subject had shot the deer with a rifle and without a license. Enforcement action was taken regarding the violations.

CO Andy Bauer observed two ORVs on the railroad right of way, with one of the ORVs being stuck just off of the tracks. CO Bauer made contact with two 17 year old subjects

and discovered a long list of violations. CO Bauer issued them citations for not licensing the ORVs and a long list of warnings.

CO Andy Bauer received a RAP complaint that a subject had taken a deer without a license. CO Bauer investigated and found that a subject had never bow hunted before. The subject had borrowed a bow and had shot a doe. The subject had failed to purchase any type of deer license. The subject was cited for the illegally taken deer.

CO Steve Mooney received a complaint of a subject hunting in the City of Paw Paw. CO Mooney investigated and subsequently located a subject in a tree stand. When the subject saw CO Mooney, he threw his arrows to the ground. Upon contact, CO Mooney observed a small amount of fresh blood on the subject's fanny pack and the discovery led to the subject admitting to taking a deer earlier and failing to tag the deer. The subject led CO Mooney to where he had hid the untagged deer. CO Mooney was very familiar with the subject, who had received a couple of citations for fishing without licenses from him in the past. CO Mooney cited the subject for the untagged deer.

CO Robert Crisp responded to a RAP complaint involving a person taking a deer without a license in Barry County. CO Crisp responded to the suspect's residence and made contact with his mother who was immediately defensive, uncooperative and provided false information. CO Crisp made contact with persons in the community and determined the suspect was driving a white pickup in the area. CO Crisp patrolled the area and located the suspect on a two-track. The suspect confessed to taking a 10-point buck without a license.

CO Richard Cardenas and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth were in Barry County checking on an illegal tree stand in the Yankee Springs State Game Area when they heard shots nearby. CO Cardenas and Sgt. Hackworth located a vehicle in the area and noticed what appeared to be marijuana "shake" on the driver's seat. CO Cardenas walked the area and located two subjects sitting in a camouflage pop-up blind. CO Cardenas made contact with the subjects and smelled the odor of marijuana. The subjects admitted to smoking marijuana and also had marijuana with them in the blind. The subjects also possessed a 12 gauge shotgun and a 9mm handgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Higashi checked two persons hunting in the Gourdneck State Game Area in Kalamazoo County. One hunter was carrying a bow and another was carrying a .22 rifle. The person with the bow did not have a hunting license and claimed to be simply carrying the bow for the other person to use. The person carrying the bow did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Holmes and Jason McCullough were patrolling Kalamazoo County when they received information regarding a person calling out for help from a wood lot. The officers responded to the scene and heard the voice of a person yelling from the wood lot. The officers quickly located a legally blind person who had become disoriented after leaving his nearby residence. An ambulance was dispatched and the person was treated for mild hypothermia.

CO Chris Holmes was assisted by area COs , Michigan State Police, and the Southwest Michigan Enforcement Taskforce in the culmination of an investigation of a case involving a subject who was suspected of illegally taking two deer. The officers executed a search warrant at the suspect's residence. Approximately 48 marijuana plants and several wildlife crime-related items were recovered.

CO Mike Mshar received a Report All Poaching complaint about shots being heard. COs Mshar and Chuck Towns responded to the area. The suspects had fled the scene. CO Mshar was able to get enough of a vehicle description that he was able to contact several area informants and get a possible name and location for the suspects. CO Mshar and CO Towns checked several addresses and finally located the vehicle at the residence of one of the accomplices. COs made contact with several suspects and located the spike buck, a rifle and shotgun still in the vehicle. The COs were familiar with the suspects as one of them had just received his license privileges reinstated after having been revoked for the previous three years for taking a deer illegally. A third suspect was located and interviewed the following day by CO Towns. A full confession was received, with the suspects stating that they got caught up in the moment and all shot at the deer after they jumped it from its bed. The deer and firearms were seized and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

While conducting a deer processor inspection, CO Rich Nickols located an 8-point buck that was tagged with a muskellunge harvest tag. The tag had been validated with the date and notched out for a 53" muskie. Follow up was conducted with the owner of the tag and it was found that the subject did possess a valid combo deer license but did not possess his glasses when he tagged the deer. The deer had five points on one side and three on the other and the date was correctly validated so it appeared that the subject was trying to legally tag the deer. CO Nickols had the subject validate the appropriate tag and attach it to the deer.

CO Rich Nickols was checking an area of state land for hunting activity. Upon locating a vehicle, CO Nickols observed a gun case in it. A check of the retail sales system showed the registered owner had recently been purchasing military licenses. CO Nickols conducted a foot patrol and located the hunter who stated he was a 100 percent disabled veteran but did not have the proper paperwork on his person. The investigation is continuing.

Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Andrew Monnich responded to a shots fired complaint by the Sharonville State Game Area in Grass Lake. Upon investigation numerous people were taking advantage of the nice fall weather and utilizing the game area, deer hunting and small game hunting. No violations were found.

Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Andrew Monnich were heading to a waterfowl complaint when they came upon a pair of ORVs driving on the roadway. The individuals were stopped

and the multiple violations of no helmets, no ORV permits, and riding double were addressed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was on an evening patrol looking for shining activity. He noticed a vehicle shining a field and a stop was made. Upon investigation, the subjects were notified and educated on the November "no shining" laws. A warning was issued.

CO Chris Maher and CO Jason McCullough contacted a subject suspected of shooting a buck during the 2013 muzzleloader season without a buck license. After a short interview the subject admitted she had killed the buck on an adjacent farm and just never bought a license. CO Maher explained the importance of buying licenses before shooting animals and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher and CO Jason McCullough followed up on a complaint of a subject shooting a turkey during the fall turkey hunt without a license. Upon contact CO Maher observed a couple of other turkey parts and pieces that appeared to have come from a different bird. CO Maher discovered the subject had actually shot two turkeys in 2015; one during the spring hunt and one during the fall hunt (both without licenses). Charges are pending and the case has been turned over to the local county prosecutor.

CO Chris Maher and CO Jason McCullough were checking a local deer processor when they observed a tag on a buck that had not been validated. An RSS check showed the tag had been reported as lost/replaced and was therefore invalid. Upon contact the subject was found to still be in possession of his other voided buck license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in the Waterloo SGA, CO Chris Maher came across two subjects dragging a field dressed deer out of the woods. Upon inspection CO Maher noticed the animal was untagged. The subjects were also dragging the deer from private property. After speaking with property owners, no enforcement action was taken for trespass. However, enforcement action was taken regarding the untagged deer.

CO Jason McCullough observed a truck out in a cut corn field after dark. After a short time the truck attempted to drive out of the field rather quickly. CO McCullough contacted the truck at the road and discovered an un-gutted deer that had been recently killed. The successful hunter stated he was trying to get the deer out of the field quickly because they were going to hunt again tomorrow. CO McCullough observed the kill tag for the animal had been quickly attached in an easily removable location and not validated. CO McCullough explained the importance of validating kill tags and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough completed an investigation on a subject who was continually trespassing on a piece of private property. The subject was caught on a trail camera several times with his son who was carrying a crossbow. Through the course of the investigation CO McCullough found out the subject never had permission to hunt the

property as he claimed. Additionally, on the youth hunt weekend they were not only trespassing but hunting without a license of any type. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough gathered some information on a subject who was trespassing on a neighbor's property at 4:00 a.m. The subject was seen shining fields with a flashlight and carrying a shotgun. The subject claimed he was chasing coyotes off his property. CO McCullough informed the subject he could not shoot coyotes in the city limits, next to houses, with a shotgun. Additionally, he was informed he could not trespass while pursuing coyotes. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds received a call from local dispatch regarding a hunter who was reported to be lost in a state game area. The officer responded to the area and after a short foot patrol located the hunter, who was a little embarrassed that law enforcement was called to locate him.

CO Al Mendez responded to a RAP complaint about a subject killing and possessing a wild turkey without a fall turkey license. While at the subject's residence CO Mendez observed a fresh turkey carcass in the front yard and a turkey leg on the railing of the porch. The subject was not home but CO Mendez had the subject's wife call him at work. CO Mendez interviewed the subject on the phone and the subject admitted he had shot the turkey with his bow the day before while he was deer hunting. The subject stated he saw the turkey and could not resist and had to shoot it. Complaint and warrant request have been submitted to the prosecutor's office.

During patrol COs Joshua Jackson and Isaac Tyson checked one fisherman who was near his pan fish limit. The two COs sat across the river and counted as the fisherman caught more fish. They made contact a second time to discover the angler was over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the north east corner of Branch County, CO Isaac Tyson stopped an ORV traveling on the roadway. The subject stated that he thought he was in Hillsdale County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince responded to a complaint where a subject was dragging two untagged bucks out of the woods. CO Prince arrived at the subject's home and witnessed the hunter butchering the two untagged deer in his driveway. The hunter also had a baiting violation at his tree stand. Enforcement action taken.

While on his way home from a Belle Isle third shift, CO Pete Purdy came upon a three car injury accident. CO Purdy parked his patrol vehicle to block traffic and administered first aid to a victim complaining of severe chest pain from possible broken sternum and ribs. CO Purdy radioed Livingston County 911 and requested EMS. He was advised that two Livingston County sheriff's deputies were enroute to the accident. While assisting the injured subject, an onlooker yelled that one of the cars was on fire. CO Purdy observed flames coming under the hood of that vehicle. CO Purdy assisted the crash victims, moving away from the fire. The same onlooker grabbed a fire

extinguisher and put out the flames. CO Purdy radioed back to Livingston County 911 to start the fire department to make sure the fire didn't reignite. When EMS, fire, and the sheriff's units arrived on scene, CO Purdy helped with traffic control, diverting traffic around the accident scene.

CO Brandon Hartleben responded to a safety zone violation complaint in Hamburg Township, Livingston County. After a brief investigation, an interview, and a GIS map recon, CO Hartleben was able to determine that the location the man was hunting from was violating no less than eight different safety zones of houses in his subdivision. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Neterer drove by a property in the CWD management zone that was known to have bait out. Earlier in the year, CO Neterer and CO Todd Thorn drove by the property and noticed a corn feeder from the road. After searching the property, two more corn feeders were located, along with two mineral blocks, sugar beets, carrots etc. After numerous attempts to contact the hunters actively hunting over the bait, CO Neterer was able to catch one hunter in his blind. The hunter claimed he thought he could bait on his property because it was so far from the CWD Core area. CO Neterer informed the hunter that it is illegal to bait or feed in Ingham, Clinton and Shiawassee counties. The hunter was ticketed for hunting over bait in the CWD Management Zone.

CO Matt Neterer responded to a complaint of a deer carcass that had been dumped. The hunter failed to remove his tag from the deer's leg before dumping the carcass. A quick search of the Retail Sales System led CO Neterer to the subject's house where a confession was obtained. A ticket was issued for litter and the subject was given 24 hours to pick up the carcass or else pay to have it professionally removed. The subject stated that he would go pick up the carcass and place it in the garbage.

CO Matt Neterer walked in on a property in the CWD management zone that was known to have bait from a complaint earlier in the year. CO Neterer checked the property several times before the hunters were finally located. The first hunter CO Neterer encountered was not hunting over bait. That hunter pointed CO Neterer to the property owner's tree stand. The property owner was found to be sitting over a corn feeder and claimed that he thought it was legal to bait as long as it was two gallons or less and spread out over a 10x10 area. The hunter was told that baiting and feeding are illegal in the CWD management zone which includes Ingham, Clinton and Shiawassee counties. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Neterer observed three hunters returning to their vehicle after dark that was parked on a walking trail just outside the city limits. The hunters claimed they had permission four years ago to hunt the property but did not have the property owner's name or phone number. CO Neterer noticed an empty bag of corn in the back seat of the van. CO Neterer had the subjects walk him to their stands. Before they made it to the stand, one hunter admitted to having bait out in front of his stand. He claimed that the store he bought it from told him it was legal because it was a mineral. The subject was advised that he was misinformed. There is no baiting or feeding in Ingham, Clinton

and Shiawassee counties which includes minerals. Two of the three subjects had DNR priors for hunting without a license and no hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King conducted a follow up on a complaint of a subject with a possible illegal white-tailed deer. CO King made contact with the subject at his residence. After interviewing the subject CO King was able to obtain a verbal and written confession of shooting the deer without a license. A 7 point rack was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick responded to a complaint of carcasses dumped in a field just outside of Byron. There were two does and a pile of waterfowl at the site. One deer had a tag left on the leg and the individual was contacted. It was discovered that the individual gave his tag to a friend that lived in the area and he used it to tag one of the does. The friend's address was tracked down and the investigation is ongoing.

DISTRICT 9

While patrolling parts of Pointe Mouillee SGA, COs Dan Walzak and Raymond Gardner made contact with a man, woman and a small child coming out of a field approximately 45 minutes after the end of hunting hours for small game. The man was hunting for squirrels and took his family along for the experience. A lot of planning appeared to go into his afternoon as he made sure that his son and his wife were wearing blaze orange vests as he was. The man also brought along a shotgun for close shots and a .22 rim fire rifle for longer shots. The ammunition for his shotgun was steel shot as required and his licenses were in order. For whatever reason, however, the hunter asked his wife to carry the .22 rifle for him while she was also taking care of the young boy. There was a problem in that the wife did not have a hunting license and the rifle was still loaded after hunting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Detroit River, COs Raymond Gardner, David Schaumburger and James Zellinger made contact with a waterfowl hunter on Humbug Island. The hunter had taken four bufflehead ducks that day. Upon checking licenses, it was discovered the hunter did not have a federal duck stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger checked many hunters at the managed hunt at Pointe Mouillee SGA. A few violations encountered were having an unplugged shotgun and having more than 18 shells in the managed units. Enforcement action was taken and hunters were encouraged to double check their shells before entering the managed areas.

COs Kris Kiel and Jacob Griffin worked a tip of late shooting of waterfowl on a gravel pit. The COs watched 2 young waterfowl hunters until an adult came to pick them up on an ORV, which was 31 minutes after the end of shooting hours. The youth were still calling for wood ducks and geese and fully loaded at the time contact was made. Along with hunting unsupervised, the youth were hunting 31 minutes after shooting hours and

had shelled corn dumped in piles around the goose decoys. The adult had given them the corn to put out. He claimed they were baiting for deer in the middle of the shallow pond surrounded by goose decoys. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel caught up with a suspect who trespassed and took a 9-point buck on private property. The CO kept checking the neighboring property and finally made contact with a subject who matched the description given by the complainant. The subject first denied being there, but when CO Kiel told him that he was going to show the complainant a picture of him, he gave a full confession. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor for recreational trespass and reimbursement will be sought for the illegally taken deer.

CO Kris Kiel and CO Brad Silorey were on patrol checking waterfowl hunters on state land. CO Silorey observed a group of hunters at the end of shooting hours that were not packing up and appeared to continue to hunt. Once the COs made contact, it was well after shooting time had ended. One suspect frantically attempted to unload his shotgun. The suspect had a loaded weapon after shooting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey observed a boat of hunters returning from their morning hunt. CO Silorey contacted the subjects and was checking their equipment and safety gear when he noticed that the vessel only had two PFDs (life jackets) on board for three passengers. Enforcement action was taken.

While working end of hunting hours on Lake Saint Clair, CO Brad Silorey observed several hunters with their decoys still in the water after hours and could hear them actively calling for ducks. After several minutes of surveillance, CO Silorey observed three ducks flying into the suspect's decoys. The suspects then took multiple shots killing two ducks. CO Silorey noted the time of the shots and then made contact with the subjects. Upon arrival to the scene the two subjects were retrieving the ducks from their decoys. CO Silorey questioned the suspects on if they knew what time it was and if they knew when hunting hours ended. The subjects were unsure of end hours and had no clue that they had shot 20 minutes late. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and CO Brad Silorey were patrolling Harsens Island when they received a complaint regarding an illegal type of decoy being used in the managed waterfowl unit. Upon arrival to the particular area the decoys were spotted. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a vehicle that stopped in front of a residence late at night and shot twice with a shotgun out the window of the vehicle. The shooters ended up killing a large 9-point buck. The residents came out of their homes after hearing the shots to see two men dragging the buck out of the field. The poachers were scared off by the lights coming on in surrounding homes. CO Ken Kovach arrived on the scene a short time later to recover the poached trophy buck. The CO conducted surveillance on the area but the violators never returned to try and claim the deer. CO

Kovach had the deer processed and donated it to a needy family in the local community.

While checking waterfowl hunters in southern St. Clair County, CO Ken Kovach came across a group of hunters coming into a launch with a successful bag limit of ducks. The hunters appeared nervous as the CO began talking to the group. It was discovered the group of hunters had taken an over limit of ducks. The hunters were adamant it was an honest mistake, but when the CO ran the hunters in the Michigan DNR system for prior arrests, it showed the two had been arrested for several waterfowl violations in the past. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was dispatched by St. Clair County Sheriff's Department to a group of hunters trespassing on the landowner's property. Upon arrival, the landowner pointed the CO in the direction the hunters were last seen. CO Kovach was able to locate three hunters a short time later sitting in full camouflage on the landowner's property. The hunters were also in violation of the baiting restriction. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling, CO Ben Lasher was passed by three ORVs on the roadway. CO Ben Lasher activated his emergency lights, turned around and made a traffic stop on the machines. There were four adults on three machines going for a joy ride due to one of the machines being brand new. No one was wearing helmets, only one had an ORV sticker and one driver had a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received a trespass complaint on the same subject he had written last fall for no hunter orange and advised him to get permission from the property owner. Once again, the subject is on the same property this year without permission. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Christopher Knights received a complaint from dispatch. The complainant stated they saw a car parked on M59 in the Highland Recreational Area and it looked like they went into the woods with a bow. CO Knights responded to the area and found a vehicle parked on the opposite side of the guardrail next to the "no hunting" sign. After waiting a few minutes a hunter came out of the woods, CO Knights met him at his car. CO Knights questioned him on what he was doing in this area; the suspect stated he was hunting. CO Knights pointed to the sign 20 yards behind his car that stated "no hunting". CO Knights advised him that this was part of a Nature Preserve and only used for hiking and trail riding. The suspect responded to CO Knights and stated he just shot a deer. CO Knights walked with him into the woods and located his tree stand and bait. CO Knights asked if his stand was properly marked and he stated it was not. The suspect then took CO Knights to the deer. The suspect shot a 10 point buck approximately 45 yards away from the stand. CO Knights seized the deer and took the deer to a local processor where the meat will be donated to a local church and given to a needy family. Enforcement action taken

While patrolling the State Game area in Oxford Township, CO Christopher Knights drove by some private property that has been getting a lot of trespassing issues. CO

Knights drove a little ways onto the property during the night and waited for activity. After a few minutes, CO Knights saw some lights in the distance, in the very back of the field. CO Knights slowly crept up the farm field and got closer to the area of the lights. After a minute, the vehicle came up and out of the tree line; CO Knights turned on all of his lights and conducted a stop. The two passengers admitted to seeing the multiple "no trespassing" signs surrounding the property, but have been recreating there multiple times before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights received a poaching complaint from Wolverine Lake Police Department. They stated they saw a person dragging a deer out of the woods from one of their parks. The officer from Wolverine Lake got a plate number and CO Knights conducted the follow-up investigation. CO Knights met the individual at his residence and saw one deer in a garbage can and blood all over the garage floor. After interviewing the suspect further, he admitted to shooting a deer the previous day in a park and also picking up a road kill deer earlier in the day. After some follow up questions, the hunter admitted to shooting a 6 point buck in the wooded area surrounding his subdivision. The suspect stated he didn't know hunting was prohibited, but also stated he didn't look in the guide book or online for areas to hunt. CO Knights seized the head and rack of the deer as well as the meat and donated it to the local church in the area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin received a RAP complaint of an illegal stand with multiple piles of deer bait in front of the stand. CO Griffin noted the location of the stand and made contact with a subject who was using it and whom it belonged to. The subject admitted to hunting over too much bait, bolting his tree stand to the tree, and never having his name and address on his stand. After further questioning, the subject also admitted to continuously leaving the stand out for at least three years. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Oakland County, CO Jacob Griffin heard shots coming from the east side of Pontiac Lake. CO Griffin located five subjects hunting the shoreline. During a routine waterfowl check CO Griffin found one subject using a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells and one subject who failed to sign the Federal Waterfowl Stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on foot patrol at Bald Mountain Recreation Area when he noticed multiple subjects returning to the boat launch at Graham Lake. CO Griffin checked multiple waterfowl hunters coming off the water. During a waterfowl check, CO Griffin found one subject in possession of lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Oakland County, CO Jacob Griffin stopped to check three anglers. While doing a fish check CO Griffin noticed one subject walking with multiple fishing poles. Due to the subject being hesitant to fish while CO Griffin was nearby, CO Griffin went to the other side of the lake. Shortly after, CO Griffin observed the angler from a distance using more than three fishing poles. CO Griffin made contact with the subject who was fishing with five lines and was in possession of 23 live Round

Gobies. CO Griffin educated the subject about the issues associated with the Round Goby along with the current fishing regulations. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers received information that multiple subjects were trespassing and hunting on Flint City property. After speaking with the complainant, CO Beavers located the property in question, confirming it is private property, owned by the Genesee County Land Bank. While walking the property, CO Beavers located one tree stand and bait pile. CO Beavers observed the area for multiple hours but no one arrived. A week later, CO Beavers returned to the site and found a subject in the tree stand. CO Beavers instructed the subject to exit the stand. Once the subject was on the ground CO Beavers asked if he had permission to hunt on the property and he stated that he does. The subject said the property owner lives across the street and gave him permission to hunt. CO Beavers then asked for his hunting license and identification, which he was unable to produce. CO Beavers and the subject exited the woods and went to the house where the supposed property owner lives. CO Beavers made contact with the gentlemen and he said he was not the property owner and only gave permission to park at his house. CO Beavers informed the subject of his violations and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 21

Detective Erlandson reports three suspects entered guilty pleas in federal court Grand Rapids for violation of the Clean Air Act: Improper Removal of Asbestos, failing to wet asbestos and failing to report income to the IRS. Suspects went into a partnership to salvage metals at the old Consumers Energy power plant in Comstock Township, Kalamazoo County and share the proceeds. One suspect controlled the site while the other two suspects hired and controlled day to day operations of the workers. Workers were not given adequate safety protective clothing or filters for masks to protect their lungs. Workers were at the site for over 1 year.

Suspect #1 was given probation of three years, ordered to pay taxes on \$1.75 million in proceeds from the salvage job (\$394,033 to the Internal Revenue Service), pay restitution to EPA for asbestos cleanup of \$1.03 million. The other two suspects were given three years' probation and given a fine \$154,604 in restitution.

Detective Erlandson reports on the conviction of two suspects by guilty pleas in Livingston County for violation of Water Resources Protection Violations (attempted) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 31, 2-Counts. Suspects owned a company in Howell. They ordered employees to pour 35% Hydrogen Peroxide down monitoring wells to change the sampling results of the contamination levels at sites to assist owners of contaminated sites to be removed from MDEQ scrutiny. EIS executed 18 search warrants throughout Michigan and was fortunate to have an informant to assist with information.

Sentences given were a fine of \$70,000, 2 years' probation, not possess Hydrogen Peroxide, 40 hours community service, and to present at the spring 2016 Michigan Petroleum Association.

A Lapeer County man pled guilty in 71-A District Court to two misdemeanor charges of illegal disposal of bodies of dead animals. He was sentenced to one year of probation and a total of \$480 in fines and costs.

The investigation began in December 2014 with a citizen's complaint about an illegal disposal of horses. Detective Erick Thorson, DNR Environmental Investigation Section, investigated the allegation. The violation was allegedly taking place on privately owned property in Oregon Township, Lapeer County. The complainant told the investigator that at one point the smell was so bad that the complainant could not be outside without being affected by the smell. The suspect in this case is the property owner, who owns a business that in its articles of incorporation lists its activity as "removal and burial of animal carcasses". The complainant alleges that the suspect has been illegally disposing of dead horses on this property. The bodies were being deposited in a mass grave and left uncovered for an extended period of time. Det. Thorson was able to observe and document violations of Act 239, Bodies of Dead Animals and other state laws pertaining to this activity. This was done during the time period of December 29, 2014 through January 12, 2015. The violations involved the improper disposal of more than 15 dead horses. Officials from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Lapeer County Sheriff's Office, and township officials had also responded to complaints about violations occurring at the same site during the summer of 2014.

BELLE ISLE

CO Mike Drexler was checking anglers during an afternoon Belle Isle shift when he contacted one subject with a number of smaller bluegills. The CO counted the anglers catch and found the subject to be in possession of 29 bluegills, making the angler four over the limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Neterer worked a day shift on Belle Isle. CO Neterer and CO Ben Lasher responded to a call of a woman with children in her vehicle who could not get the vehicle started. Upon arrival, it was discovered that one of her children had bent the key and it would not go into the ignition. CO Lasher was able to bend the key back using his Leatherman tool and get the vehicle started.

While working on Belle Isle, COs Raymond Gardner and Jason Becker received a complaint from Detroit Police Department of a man walking with a gun near the athletic fields. Officers made contact with the subject and determined what was thought to be a gun was actually a walking stick. No further action taken.